

eration in the Barak Valley of Assam in July, 1979 and since then high-grade crude oil was found in six places including Duaka, Kanchanpur, Badarpur, Masimpur and Panchgram and Natural Gas was found at Adamtilla and Bashkandi. As per survey report, Prognosticated resources of more than 450 million Tonnes of crude oil and natural gas is lying in the valley. At Admtilla, natural gas is being burnt daily without making any arrangement of utilisation of the gas available which could be utilised for domestic connections, construction of gas Turbine Thermal Project etc. and manufacture of Fertilizer.

It is learnt that ONGC is going to stop drilling in the Valley on the plea of non-availability of crude oil. Already one Rig has been shifted and order for shifting of another Rig is on. I urge upon the Central Government for immediate exploration of the oil and natural gas lying in deposit in Barak Valley and also for establishment of Oil Refinery, Gas Turbine and Fertilizer Factory in the Valley.

- (iv) **Need for early construction of a barrage on river Ganga in Kanpur to solve drinking water problem of the areas**

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute scarcity of drinking water in the metropolitan city of Kanpur which has the largest population in the State having largest population in the country. This industrial city lacks in respect of many civic amenities, but the problem of drinking water is very acute. The city has always depended on river Ganga for drinking water, but with the change of its course the river is flowing along a distance of 7-8 kilometres from the city. Poor people living in slum colonies stand in queue for hours to get water from the taps, but often return empty-handed because water does not come through the taps at all. The problem has not yet been taken that seriously, due to which the situation has become grave. This problem can be solved only by con-

structing a barrage on the river and brining the water nearer to the city. This is a very sensitive issue and empty assurances will not do. Due to paucity of funds, the present State Government is unable to do anything in this regard, but is ready to extend all help if any project is undertaken by the Central Government.

Therefore, I would request the Government to pay immediate attention towards this matter of life and death for the residents of Kanpur and formulated a scheme for the construction of a barrage on river Ganga and implement the same, so that drinking water could be made available to people. Construction of a barrage on river Ganga is the permanent solution for providing drinking water to the constantly increasing population of this metropolitan city. Therefore, the Government should implement this long awaited scheme on priority basis and fulfill its duty.

- (v) **Need for uniform rate for sugarcane throughout the country**

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a great discontent among the farmers due to fixing of different rates of sugarcane in different States. Most of the sugar mills are old and in decrepit condition, due to which their crushing capacity has gone down. In the circumstances, it is apprehended that lakhs of quintals of sugarcane would dry up in the fields itself. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is more serious. A cut of Rs. 3 instead of Rs. 2/- per quintal is being made this year at the purchasing centres due to which lakhs of farmers will suffer huge financial losses. Due to a five per cent reduction in the commission payable to sugarcane cooperatives, the future of the cooperatives which are already running in loss and their employees has become dark. Due to the non-payment of price of sugarcane in most of the States the farmers are experiencing acute financial crisis and most of them are forced to mortgage the slips issued by sugar mills. I would like to demand from the Central

[Sh. Hari Kewal Prasad]

Government that uniform rate for sugarcane should be announced for the entire country, prices should be paid immediately and unnecessary cuts should be stopped. Besides, black-marketing of these slips should be stopped and a survey on sugarcane should be conducted. The State Governments should be directed not to close down the sugar mills until crushing of entire crop of sugarcane is completed.

- (vi) **Need to conduct study on working conditions of workers engaged in major lead industries in the working**

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADAYA (Krishnagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Lead poisoning is one of the dreadful diseases which causes lot of harm to the lead workers including paralysis of wrists or feet or even brain damage. A study was conducted by the expert teams of labour Department, Government of West Bengal the first of its kind in the country on occupational health status in relation to TLV of lead. It was done on 983 lead workers, both male and female, and on six major lead industries in West Bengal. The paper containing the findings of that study was presented in an International Symposium held at Bombay in January, 1991 which was highly appreciated by Indian and International scientists.

So, I request the Central Government to kindly prepare a status report on lead workers, working in major lead industries in the country, in terms of workers' occupation, health and anti-pollution measures taken by such industries.

- (vii) **Need to provide central funds to the government of Tamil Nadu for compensating the loss accruing due to the following of prohibition policy**

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR

(Chengalpattur): Sir, the present Government in Tamil Nadu took over in June, 1991 with a revenue budget deficit of Rs. 1000 crores.

Following the Gandhian principle, the State Government of Tamil Nadu introduced prohibition as a first step and stopped the manufacture and sale of cheap liquor. In following this noble cause, the Government lost Rs. 340 crores in the revenue during the year. However, the families especially, the women folk of Tamil Nadu have been relieved of the drain in their poor families income by partial prohibition.

This deficit has affected the other development works in Tamil Nadu to continue. Welfare measures in Tamil Nadu should not suffer because of this loss due to prohibition policy.

The Government of India has made provisions of several crores of rupees in the various welfare measures to the society and the downtrodden. It is felt that the Union government should compensate the Tamil Nadu State for the losses incurred by introducing the partial prohibition.

I, therefore, urge on the Central Government to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for compensating the entire loss accrued due to the following of prohibition policy.

- (viii) **Need to provide adequate assistance to the government of Madhya Pradesh to cope with the drought situations**

SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Madhya Pradesh faces a grim drought situation. At least five persons have died of starvation in the tribal areas of Sarguja. Many more are on the verge of starvation deaths as revealed by a team of leaders which recently visited these areas.

The drought situation in Jabalpur district, especially its rural areas, is extremely